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be either the operator of the radio communication system or another service provider who, by way of suitable agreements, is allowed to access the radio communication system's infrastructure.

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A service offered in a radio communication system can thus possibly be used by a mobile radio user via different service providers. Depending on what specific requirements the mobile radio user places on the desired service in terms, for example, of price or quality of data transmission, an alternative provider may in each case offer the mobile radio user the best conditions.

A method is known from WO 02/32181 A1 whereby a mobile station requests and receives a program from an operator of a radio communication system who is active in a first country. With the aid of said program a more favorably priced operator of a radio communication system in a second country can be selected for the mobile station. When a telecommunication service in the second country is requested, via a radio communication system of the second country the program controls a process of communicating with an accessibility assistant connected to the radio communication system of the first country. From the accessibility assistant the mobile station obtains a list of operators of radio communication systems in the second country along with information about said operators' prices. Either the mobile station user can then select one of the operators him- or herself or the program will automatically select the most favorable operator for the requested telecommunication service.

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The object of the invention is therefore to disclose an advantageous method for selecting a service provider for a service that can be received by a mobile station via a radio access network of a radio communication system and is provided

by at least two service providers via the radio access network of the radio communication system.

Said object is achieved by means of the method and the
5 selecting device according to the independent claims.

(Advantageous embodiments and developments of the invention are the subject of the dependent claims.

10 In the inventive method for selecting a service provider for a service that can be received by a mobile station via a radio access network and is provided by at least two service providers, a selecting device receives from the mobile station via a radio interface a request to select the service provider,
15 the service providers are each requested by the selecting device to indicate a value of a selection parameter, and the selecting device selects one of the service providers for the service as a function of the indicated values of the selection parameter.

20 From a multiplicity of service providers the selecting device can select the one indicating the selection parameter that is the most favorable for the mobile station at the time it made the request. A selection parameter is, for instance, the price
25 demanded for the service, the offered connection quality, or the data rate at which the respective service provider will transmit the service. Because the selecting device is connected to the mobile station via the radio interface, the most favorable service provider can be selected with minimal
30 signaling, namely the request by the mobile station to select a service provider. The selecting device belongs, for example, to the radio communication system or is located externally and connected to the radio communication system preferably on a line-linked basis.)